

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 09587 241046Z
ACTION SS-25

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P R 240955Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4412
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T AMMAN 9587

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, XF
SUBJECT: HUSSEIN'S PENINSULA AND GULF VISIT

1. KING HUSSEIN TOLD US DECEMBER 22 THAT HIS VISIT TO RIYADH AND GULF AND OMAN CAPITALS HAD BEEN GOOD. THERE WAS STRONG CONVERGENCE IF VIEWS ON SUPPORT FOR SADAT, GENERALLY MAINTAINING PUBLIC SILENCE ON THE ISSUE OF EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN DIFFERENCES, AND A DESIRE TO ASSIST WHEN THE TIME APPEARS RIGHT IN TRYING TO BRING SADAT AND ASAD TOGETHER. HUSSEIN SAID SAUDIS WERE MORE THAN USUALLY SUPPORTIVE AND COOPERATIVE. KING KHALID STILL EXPRESSES RESERVATION OVER SADAT'S TACTICS AND SLIGHT TO ISLAM WHICH HE FEELS VISIT OT OCCUPIED JERUSALEM REPRESENTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, FAHD WAS MORE SUPPORTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING OF SADAT IN HIS PRIVATE TALKS WITH HUSSEIN.

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2. HUSSEIN BELIEVES A SUMMIT WILL BE REQUIRED AT SOME POINT, AND THAT SAUDIS WILL BE WILLING TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SUPPORTING IT AND INDEED IN INVITING THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHERS. HE ALSO SAYS HE CAN NOW TALK TO ASAD WITH KNOWLEDGE OTHERS IN THE GULF FEEL THE SAME WAY. FINALLY, HE SAYS HE HAS DEFUSED ANY SUPPORT WHICH

ASAD MAY HAVE BUILT UP FOR REJECTION IN THE AREA.
HE SAID HE ALSO CEMENTED FURTHER JORDAN'S TIES IN AREAS OF
INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION AND JOINT CONSULTATION TO
MEET THREATS TO EACH OTHERS' INTEGRITY AND STABILITY.

3. AMONG GULF STATES, KUWAIT AND BAHREIN APPEARED
MOST CRITICAL OF SADAT'S MOVES IN TERMS OF TACTICS
AND TIMING, LACK OF CONSULTATION AND SO
FORTH. QATAR AND OMAN WERE MOST FULLY SUPPORTIVE.

4. SAUDIS PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR HUSSEIN'S CURRENT
EFFORTS AND SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER FAVORABLY
GUARANTEEING U.S. FMS CREDIT FOR FY 77 AND FY 78 AT
DOLS 150 MILLION, ADDITIONAL BUDGET SUPPORT FOR
JORDAN, AND PICKING UP SPECIFICALLY SOME PART OF
THE TAB FOR INCREASED MILITARY WAGES HERE. KING
SAID HE DID NOT DISCUSS BILATERAL AID IN KUWAIT.
IN UAE HE ASKED THE EMIRATES TO PAY FOR THE
DIESELIZING OF JORDAN'S FLEET OF 282 CENTURION
TANKS, ADDING NIGHT VISION DEVICES, LASER RANGE FINDING AND
NEW SOPHISTICATED TARGET ACQUISITION EQUIPMENT
OF UK MANUFACTURE. KING SAID SHEIKH ZAYID PROMISED
TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FINAL IN NEXT FEW WEEKS.
KING DID NOT KNOW FULL VALUE OF THE PROJECT, BUT
SIAD THE UK MANUFACTURER, VICKERS, HAD PRESENTED
A FULL PROPOSAL WHICH UAE COULD STUDY.

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5. KING IS CLEARLY ELATED BY THE CLOSE AGREEMENT
HE FOUND AND IN THE GOOD REACTIONS TO HIS
REQUEST FOR MORE BILATERAL SUPPORT DURING HIS VISIT. HE
CLEARLY HOPES TO BE ABLE TO BECOME, IN HIS FUTURE TRIPS TO
DAMASCUS (AND CAIRO), SOMETHING OF A SPOKESMAN FOR
THIS MIDDLE GROUP IN HIS EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL TO SADAT
AND EVENTUALLY, TO BRING EGYPT AND SYRIA TOGETHER.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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